

APPENDIX 6

Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service Cooperation

Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area And Colorado National Monument



COLORADO CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Appendix 6—Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service Coordination

The table on the following page was developed in 2003 during the planning efforts of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the National Park Service (NPS). It identifies the differences and commonalities of these two agencies managing public land in the same ecological and social region. It addresses natural resources, cultural resources, visitor opportunities, operations, and compares recent visitor surveys. Some of the differences are valuable – one agency provides for an activity or experience that the other does not. Together, the federal lands provide a spectrum of visitor opportunities. It also identifies common opportunities, such as archeological surveys that span both areas.

This is a tool for managers in both agencies to work together in solving mutual problems, finding efficiencies in cooperative activities, understanding complementary roles, serving the public more effectively, and protecting the greater ecosystem. Managers of both agencies should periodically review the table together and identify specific actions that could be undertaken in a joint or complementary manner, develop appropriate agreements, and update the table.

The BLM thanks the NPS for allowing the Bureau's use of this table, which appears at Appendix F in the Draft Colorado National Monument General Management Plan (NPS 2004).

Table A 6-1. BLM - NPS Differences and Commonalities (2003)

Colorado National Monument
Colorado Canyons NCA and other adjoining BLM Lands

Topic	BLM	NPS	Common
Natural Resources			
Exotic plants	Priority in canyons, river corridor later	Maintenance – stay even	Tamarisk coalition, both agencies face problem that extends outside of boundaries (grazing, private land), Western Colorado weed management; common staff, Western Colorado Conservation Corps (youth corps) continue coordination between agencies, jointly apply for funding, challenge cost share, set priorities, common inventories / mapping, common volunteers (future), education (future)
Wildlife	Hunting, trapping, traditionally more active habitat management	No hunting, limited habitat management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DOW, Fish and Wildlife Service primarily manage; common mandates for T & E, habitat management - Common species: peregrine, elk, Gunnison sage grouse, big horn sheep - Similar goals of habitat management for fire, exotics, wildlife viewing
Paleontology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significant resources identified – 3 Dinosaur Diamond sites (interpretive paleo) - Major interpretive theme; paleo accessible to visitors - Regional paleontologist on staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not much surveyed, not much significant identified to date - Not major interpretive theme, paleo not very accessible to public - Totally dependent on outside research staff (no in-house staff) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Morrison formation underlies both areas - Museum of Western Colorado provides curatorial storage, display, education, expertise - Part of interpretive programs - No recreational collection (NPS none, BLM interim closure and likely to continue closure in plan) - Allow scientific collecting by permit; future – exchange research permits
Fire management/fuel build-up	BLM has approved fire management plan - new FMP due 2004	Fire management officer at DINO; fire management plan underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - joint FMP possible in 2004 incorporating Interagency Fire Template - Suppress in Black Ridge area, interagency agreements,

Topic	BLM	NPS	Common
	<p>Black Ridge is utility corridor, will suppress in that area</p> <p>Fuel reduction at Glade Park “buffer” – by Northwest Fuels Management team</p>	<p>Likely use road as break point for wild fire adjacent to NCA</p> <p>Dependent on BLM to take lead in suppression</p>	<p>annual operating plan, mutual aid, both facing fuel reduction programs, training (participate in each-others programs), education, information</p> <p>- Work cooperatively to manage Glade Park area on both sides of boundary for fuel reduction</p>
Land/health assessment OR Inventory and monitoring	<p>Land / health assessment finalized for NCA (survey polygons for veg, soils, T&E, wildlife, watershed management) how healthy compared to potential. Wilderness is healthy, Rabbit Valley did not meet standards; not complete for other BLM land; NCA will use a standard to monitor and adjust management.</p> <p>Largely tied to grazing, done once; monitoring annually, extend beyond to recreation.</p>	<p>Inventory and monitoring network – inventory underway (Moab – northern Colorado Plateau); baseline information could be used in monitoring and potential actions; monitoring to be done collectively for several parks to assess condition, individual parks may monitor more as needed.</p>	<p>Exchange of information, future look for common monitoring opportunities, get land health specialists together with I & M specialists; work together on restoration projects to ensure common goals</p>
Visual resources	Have identified visual resource management classes at CCNCA	Have visual studies on Black Ridge communication towers	Urban development and air quality in the Grand Valley affect visual resources
Soundscape	Occasional problems with helicopters flying low over river	Air tour management plan in future (2007), including baseline data	Disruptive noise from interstate, aircraft, trains; NPS data and air tour management should include NCA
Air quality	Need information	NPS had monitoring station – data, including climate; poor air quality days (inversions) in Grand Junction	Threats will be common; share data with BLM; if needed, a common monitoring station could be established (i.e. Black Ridge)

Topic	BLM	NPS	Common
Wilderness Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 75,550 acres designated 10/24/2000 - medium public knowledge (in brochure) - grazing where grand-fathered - dogs allowed - some overnight use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 13,642 acres recommended, 937 acres potential, not designated by Congress - low public knowledge (not in brochure) - no grazing - no dogs - little overnight use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Managed in accordance with wilderness act - No motorized use, no commercial activities except guides/outfitters - high urbanization on part of wilderness boundary, high day-use in these areas - horse use - no permit system currently in place - addressed in current management planning
Cultural Resources			
Inventory and monitoring	15-20% archeology surveyed, little information on historic structures; archeologist on area staff	Historic structures – good information, listing, register; Archeology – catching up Archeologist in Intermountain Region	Shared resources /human story; Class 1 survey funded and underway (not on ground – literature search) by BLM, includes Monument; opportunities to share research, education to protect; both need ethnographic information
Collections	Museum of Western Colorado	Most at monument, some at WAAC; Future consolidation with other agencies or NPS sites, paleo to Museum of Western CO	Meet standard, accessibility to researchers
Primary resources	McDonald Creek cultural resource area (interpreted) – rock art; Sieber canyon studied	Rim Rock Drive, historic structures, corridors, archeology sites A few petroglyphs	Archeology lithic scatters, rock shelters, rock art, Common American Indian use, no known sacred sites
Visitor Opportunities			
Interagency visitor information	BLM office in Grand Junction will continue	NPS will keep and improve existing VC, also provides information on NCA; plan proposes to be partner in interagency visitor center	Great interest (BLM, Fruita, others) in getting shared cost / grants for interagency visitor center (esp. in Fruita) Public Lands Center in CDOT's Colorado Visitor Center operational in 2004 – electronic information center
Education and outreach	Getting more funding in FY 04; NCA has interpretive specialist, rangers do	Currently one seasonal interpreter, ranger(s) also, many volunteers; NPS	Currently limited by budget, want to greatly expand in action alternatives – integral management tool – opportunities for joint programs, publications, joint

Topic	BLM	NPS	Common
	education; Museum of Western Colorado cooperative management agreement	program emphasis, part of “culture”; Colorado National Monument Association cooperating association; comprehensive interpretive plan, CNMA curriculum plan	outreach plan / implementation; i.e. BLM use of NPS amphitheater for evening programs, joint school programs (NPS having a lot of regional K-12 groups in spring, camping at Saddlehorn)
Improved trail linkage/network			Discussed in detail for specific areas.
Picnicking	A few tables at trailheads, Dinosaur hill - informal	Facilities – day use and group events	Beer parties. Littering, vandalism
Camping	Backcountry and dispersed, a few designated primitive sites	Saddlehorn campground (NPS rustic), some backcountry, group use (especially schools, universities)	
Scenic driving / overlooks	Gravel roads / 4WD or high clearance	Paved historic road and overlooks	
Road bicycling	Some	Yes – becoming premier activity, conflicts with other vehicles	
Mountain Biking on trails	Yes – lots – Mack Ridge, Kokopelli’s trail	No	
OHVs	yes	no	
Horses	More opportunities	Limited by terrain and trailheads	Connecting trails proposed in Black Ridge area
Dogs	Allowed on trails under control	Not allowed on trails, plan proposes allowing dogs on leash in Black Ridge area only	Dogs proposed to be allowed on some connecting trails
Climbing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not much, rock doesn’t hold anchors as well, longer access (4-5 miles) - Special recreation permit for commercial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More walls, more opportunities, popular for beginners - Incidental business permit for commercial - Plan – monitor carefully, may need to manage use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commercial climbers at both; becoming more popular, creating more resource impacts (social trails, hardware, affects on cliff-dwelling birds) - Potential NPS management / restriction may displace climbers to NCA

Topic	BLM	NPS	Common
Special events	Fat tire, equestrian events, periodic adventure races, public lands day and other BLM sponsored events, new demands; plan will limit and manage events, esp. Mack Ridge	Rim Rock Run, commercial filming, new demands; plan proposes to have various events or special non-auto user days	Both have increasing demands, want to be respectful of regional and national constituency, and resource protection. Need events coordination in entire Grand Valley (i.e. visitor bureau) – scheduling, clearinghouse.
Geo-caching	no	no	Abandonment of private property on public lands, disturbance of installation, disturbance of access – no; virtual (no actual cache) maybe OK; check web
Operations			
American Indian consultation			Complete planning consultation, continue joint consultation, encourage tribes to participate in area, bring their kids, elders, access, reconnect.
Volunteer coordinator	Paperwork assigned to individual, program is spread around	Year-round volunteer coordinator (paperwork, list of volunteers), divisions supervise	Interagency coordination for specific projects (weed teams, trail teams), clearing house for opportunities
Volunteers	Trail work (building and maintenance), clean-up, archeology,	Currently use for visitor center, information, maintenance (campgrounds, trash pick up, painting signs), resource management (natural and cultural i.e. geologists, archeologists)	Develop adopt a trail program, other “adoption” programs, increasing emphasis on volunteers, demographics of Grand Valley will supply skilled volunteers, need to harness; interagency volunteer teams i.e. trail crews, weed teams
Law enforcement	1 dedicated LEO; commission by DOW; proprietary jurisdiction; 1 additional LEO in GJFO	3 permanent, 1 seasonal LE; concurrent jurisdiction	Joint agreement for emergency and mutual aid, should be reviewed – revise MOU (NPS/BLM); future common commission by USFWS, DOW for both;
Search and rescue, helicopter spots	Several heli-spots	Helipad at Saddlehorn, other landing sites as needed	Rely on Mesa County
Solid waste disposal	Poop scoop system at Devils Canyon; trash receptacles at Dinosaur Hill (urban setting)	Recycling at VC, picnic, campground; reduced trash receptacles at overlooks; plan proposes dogs on trail in	Same overall goal of pack it in / pack it out (“leave no trace”) to degree practical in front country and back country

Topic	BLM	NPS	Common
		"transition" zone and will initiate poop scoop system at trailheads	
Research permits	Not as systematized, reviewed by specialists, Museum of Western Colorado	Service-wide on-line system	Exchange research permits, explore future joint system or link or common listing area-wide; interagency newsletter on research
GIS	Fully operating program, full time GIS manager	Collateral duty, part time / temporary, support from multiple sources (BLM, Mesa County, NPS region)	Both have need, common geographic extent, data applies to both areas; future joint cooperative agreement to use Mesa State students
Visitor Survey	2001-2002	2002-2003	
Visitor Profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 7% senior (61 +) - 92% adult (21-60) - 1% children/youth (20 & under) - 83% from Colorado - 39% from Grand Valley - 75% repeat visitors - 98% white not Hispanic - 82% some college or higher - mostly combination friends/family - 5% families w/kids - 48% 2 people / vehicle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 18% senior (62 +) - 63% adult (18-61) - 19% children/youth (17 & under) - 47% from Colorado - 22 % from Mesa County - 43% repeat visitors - avg. visit length 1-3 hrs. - 52% enter east (Grand Junction), 46% West (Fruita) - 18 to 34% also visited 1 or more other National Parks on this trip (ARCH, DINO, BLCA, CANY) - 8% visited CCNCA this trip 	
Activities (in order of most frequent participation)	Hiking, mountain biking, wildlife watching, photography, picnicking,	Stopping at overlooks, driving through the monument, photography, stopping at	Hiking, watching wildlife, photography, picnicking

Topic	BLM	NPS	Common
	viewing arches, rock art, and dinosaur fossils	visitor center, hiking, watching wildlife, picnicking	
Most important experiences / reasons to visit (in order or most frequent reason)	Escaping everyday experiences, wilderness aesthetics, primitive/unconfined recreation, frequent exercise	View canyons, other, rock climb, show visiting friends and relatives, spend night in campground, exercise, see what was here, use facilities, recreate	Exercise
Least important experiences	Group events, social interaction, learning	Experience solitude, visit cultural / historic resources, study geology	Most people don't come for the purpose of learning
Misc.	Benefits: Increased quality of life, improved fitness, freedom, overall wellness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most people did not feel crowded, or that seeing other people had a negative effect - 72% do not think the monument offers opportunities that are different than those provided on lands managed by state or other federal agencies 	
Visitor services / information (in order of preference)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most prefer maps and primitive signs, little on-site information or assistance (frequent visitor education and visitor service patrols undesirable) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most prefer written materials, activities to do on their own, many prefer ranger led programs and activities, museum exhibits, and staffed information desk, some prefer video or computer programs, interactive exhibits, slide programs with lecture 	Most people prefer written information they can take with them
Overnight stays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - more than 50% stay overnight - 21% in CCNCA -14 % in motels - 9% public land outside CCNCA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 14% stay overnight - 87 % of overnight stays in monument campground 	
Dogs	Miscellaneous comments:	- 56% say don't allow dogs	

Topic	BLM	NPS	Common
	1 positive about allowing dogs, 1 advocating leashes and waste clean-up	- 44% say allow dogs - 60% say if dogs allowed, only on specific or some trails	
Regional Setting			
Visitor Use Projections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Estimated visitor use 2001 about 50,000 - Visitor use of Mack Ridge, Rabbit Valley areas tripled 1995 – 2001 - Peak visitation Mack Ridge May, then Apr., Mar., Oct., Sep. - Expect visitor use to double by 2025 (up 50,000) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreational visits 2001 about 240,000 - Recreational visits 25% increase from 1979 – 1990, then steady to 1999, 20% decline since 1999 - Peak visitation August, then Sep., June, July, May - Expect visitor use to increase 10-20% by 2025 (up to 60,000) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mesa County population doubled 1970 – 1999 - Tourism accounts for 8% of direct basic employment, of which 1/5 is provided by combined outdoor recreation and parks and monuments (1,100 jobs) - Expect about 50,000 more visitors by 2025
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multiple, dispersed access to perimeter - Access to Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness through monument 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primary access Rim Rock Drive - Glade Park commuter route through monument 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fruita largely “gateway” to both areas - Heavily used trailheads near Fruita / Grand Junction
Planning			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement - Required by enabling legislation - Advisory Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement - Required by NPS policy - No advisory council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Similar schedules - Public meetings in the Grand Junction area - Interagency consultations - Tribal consultation invitation - Range of alternatives